Date: 26.2.2024

Supporting Statement for Professor Position at School, Science, Auckland University of Technology (AUT)

Introduction:

I am writing to express my strong interest in the Professor position advertised by the [School, Science at Auckland University of Technology (AUT). My extensive experience in human nutrition research, teaching, leadership, and community engagement aligns well with the key selection criteria outlined in the advertisement. I am confident that I can significantly contribute to the School's mission and strategic goals.

Addressing Key Selection Criteria:

- Distinguished Academic Achievement:
    - I hold a Ph.D. in Agricultural Biochemistry and have published over 25 scientific articles in reputable international, regional, and local journals, demonstrating a strong research record in human nutrition.
    - I have authored and co-authored several books and manuals on various aspects of nutrition, further solidifying my academic expertise.
- Proven Leadership and Team Management:
    - My experience as Dean of the School of Health Sciences at Ahfad University for Women demonstrates my ability to lead and manage teams effectively. During my tenure, I oversaw the development of new academic programs and fostered a collaborative learning environment.
    - I established the Nutrition Center for Training and Research (NCTR) and the Nutrition Center for Training and Capacity Building (NCTCB), highlighting my leadership skills in building successful research and training initiatives.
- Supporting *Te Tiriti o Waitangi Journey*:
    - While I acknowledge the specific context of *Te Tiriti o Waitangi* within New Zealand, I am committed to fostering an equitable and inclusive learning environment that respects and values diversity. Throughout my career, I have collaborated with diverse stakeholders and actively promoted inclusivity in research and education.

- Securing Funding and Building Collaborations:
    - I secured full funding for two research programs from the National Plan for Science and Technology (NPST) and successfully led projects funded by UNICEF, the FAO, and WFP. My experience demonstrates a strong ability to secure research funding and build collaborative partnerships.
- Industry and End-User Collaborations:
    - I actively engage with various stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and UN agencies, translating research findings into practical solutions for improved public health and nutrition outcomes.
- Inspiring and Motivating Students:
    - I possess over 15 years of teaching experience at the graduate and undergraduate levels. I utilize innovative pedagogical approaches to create engaging and research-based learning experiences for students.
- Supervising Postgraduate Research Students:
    - I have successfully supervised over 20 MSc students in human nutrition and currently serve as "Coordinator" for the Yale-Sudan Program for Research Mentorship. My experience demonstrates a commitment to nurturing future generations of researchers.
- Proactive Problem-Solving:
    - Throughout my career, I have tackled various challenges, including establishing new institutions and securing funding. My proven track record demonstrates a proactive and innovative approach to problem-solving.

Additional Considerations:

- I actively contribute to national and international initiatives related to food systems and nutrition.
- I am passionate about capacity building and have dedicated significant efforts to developing training programs for the nutrition workforce.

Conclusion:

I am confident that my expertise, extensive experience, and unwavering commitment to advancing the field of human nutrition make me an ideal candidate for this position. I am eager to contribute my knowledge and leadership skills to the School, Science at Auckland University of Technology (AUT).

Sincerely,

Osama Awad Salih

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Dean School of Health Sciences. Ahfad University for Women

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